



THE GRRAPEVINE

"I am the Vine, you are the branches" (Jn 15:5)

Number 84

Third Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2009

EASTER FOR FIFTY DAYS

Our English word *Easter* derives from an ancient roots that means "to shine," or "dawn," or "the direction of the sunrise." In the Easter season in which we find ourselves, the Church gives us 50 days to let the light of Christ's Resurrection dawn in our hearts and minds until it burns brightly in the fire of Pentecost.

It is ironic, but in some ways Lent is easier than Easter. It is easy enough to acknowledge our need for spiritual renewal. It is all too easy to make a list of our bad habits. It is even easy to make an attempt to eliminate one or another of them, at least for the 40 days of Lent. But it is hard to know how to respond to the Good News of the Resurrection. On Easter Sunday, the sight of the empty tomb sent the disciples scurrying everywhere, not sure what to do with themselves. We hear the dismissal at the end of Mass and we hurry forth, not sure what we are supposed to do next. As we listen to the Acts of the Apostles during Easter, little by little, we understand.

CAR FREE SUNDAYS

Now that it is Spring we will begin again with the 3rd Sunday of the month being car free Sunday. May 16th/17th plan to walk, bike, skateboard, take the bus or carpool. Let's work together to find creative ways to decrease our carbon output.

PLANT SALE



MAY 16, 2009

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

1088 Gillett Street
at
St. Mary's Church
Parking Lot

All proceeds will be donated to
St. Vincent de Paul

Any green thumbs out there? We welcome donations of seedlings, houseplants, perennials etc. for the sale. It's not too early to start getting ready!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO:

- set up (6:30-9:00 a.m.)
 - work cash table
- make, serve coffee
- assist customers
- clean up (noon-1:00 p.m.)

WE ALSO NEED:

- Plant paks, either four cell ones or the open 3 1/2" X 5" size.
- Hanging baskets 10" diameter or larger.

These can be dropped off at the rectory or in the box at the entrance of the church. We **DO NOT** need any other pots at this time.

Join us for the plant sale—it is always a time of wonderful fellowship, a welcome to spring, an opportunity to help those in our community who are struggling as well as an opportunity to get some wonderful plants for your garden.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

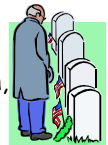
An underlying lesson from all three readings this weekend is that the Risen Christ has wiped away our sins, not only for individuals, but throughout the world and its history. The terrible power of sin has now been reversed and our coming to perfection through the love of God is part of the Easter experience. As stewards of God's love we are called to participate in Christ's redemptive activity. The steward questions for us are many: How do we resist injustice at home or in the workplace? How do we confront violence in our language and attitudes? How do we bring Christ to others?

REJOICING & REMEMBERING

We welcome the following new members through the sacrament of baptism:

Thomas Milburn
Brandon Szerencsi

In the sure hope of the resurrection, we bid farewell to:



Margaret Cottman

*"The initial step for a soul to come to knowledge of God is contemplation of nature."
St.. Irenaeus*

PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: Easter week was relatively quiet, with lots of time to transplant seedlings, do some housework and generally catch up on a few things that have been falling behind. It was nice to spend the night in McBride and have a more leisurely trip home on Monday, rather than rushing back to Prince George right after Mass and lunch. This past week the pace picked up a bit, but still fairly low key, although we did have the celebration of First Reconciliation for the Grade 3 class at St. Mary's. I was able to attend Fr. Fchet's lecture on the Mysticism of St. Paul—a real treat; I had Fr. Fchet as a professor of Scripture in the seminary.

Jude: Last week I traveled to Kitimat to attend the 53rd Annual Prince George Diocesan CWL Convention. I had a full, but very enriching weekend; meeting wonderful women from all over the diocese who are sincerely dedicated to serving God, their church and their country. They really know how to celebrate too, so a good time was had by all.

Roger: Still in Terrace, replacing Fr. Terry Brock. In a recent conversation, he stated that it is quite an interesting place to be, that he is enjoying his time there, and that he is meeting new people.

DE-MOTORIZE YOUR SOUL

For the past 100 years the average speed at which human beings and their souls travel has steadily increased. But what if we're not meant to go that fast? What if it's spiritually unnatural, and slowly messing us up inside? Can we live at an ever-escalating pace without it affecting our spiritual health?

In addition to a stressful and abnormal pace of life, this age of hyper-mobility also has us tangled up in climate chaos, global power games and the biggest business on earth.

But how do we opt out? (And how do we keep from withering with guilt?) We know what's wrong, we know what needs to be done, but we're somehow stuck on fast forward.

In the spirit of holy mischief, De-Motorize Your Soul frames the move away from oil as a practical experiment and an irresistible spiritual adventure. It proposes a set of spiritual exercises that offer alternatives to the internal combustion engine while also nurturing the soul.

The campaign provides opportunity to:

- * share what you are doing to quit oil (or at least to slow the flow)
 - * be inspired by what others are doing
 - * join others in advocating for systemic change
 - * nurture the spiritual vitality required to move beyond oil
- re-adjust normal - away from a gas-powered, hyper-mobile pace to a humane-powered, relaxed pace.

Suggested Experiments

These spiritual exercises are designed to give your soul a break from motor mania and awaken the nascent spirit of the post-oil era.

- * Take your soul off the road - go without motorized transportation for a day or more a week.
- * Remain earthbound - no flying for a year.
- * Take the hundred mile holiday - vacation no further than 100 miles from your home.
- * Share a car among households.
- * Bike as though you were riding the road to heaven - human energy is the alternative energy.
- * Each time you walk out your front door pray: "Grant me the grace to go slow."
- * Ply your imagination. Come up with your own experiments.

Visit www.demotorize.org for more inspiration and ideas

HUGE GIGANTIC THANK YOU TO THE YOUTH OF OUR PARISH

Thank you for blessing us with the re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross. What an incredibly moving and faith filled experience. It's impact stretched across age classes and across faith backgrounds. My 2 year old was spell bound. My 4 year old was fully engaged and only paused long enough between questions for answers. My Non-Christian husband was also deeply moved. For anyone that missed out I suggest you mark your calendar already for next year. This is something not worth missing.

STEWARDS OF NEW LIFE—ETERNAL LIFE

Spring is the time of year that gives us many wondrous examples of new life around us. The trees begin to bud, the wild flowers bloom along the roadways, and all of nature seems to be shouting, "Alleluia! The cold, dark, dreary days of winter are over!"

Within this season, the Church places the highest holy day of all holy days - Easter Sunday. Easter is the ultimate example of death being conquered and new life beginning. Jesus died on the cross but was raised from the dead to bring us all eternal life after we die to this earthly life.

Before Jesus suffered and died to save us from our sins, he celebrated Passover with his disciples. During the Passover meal, Jesus transformed the bread and wine at the table into his own body and blood. The Eucharist is Jesus' gift to each of us. Every time we receive Communion at Mass we are actually receiving the body and blood of Jesus Christ. This gift of Jesus renews and strengthens us to live our lives as Jesus has instructed us, as stewards of his abundant gifts— to love God with all our heart, mind and soul, and to love our neighbor as we would ourselves.

It is fitting then that during this time of new life parishes celebrate the sacrament of the Eucharist through First Holy Communion. Something seems to have been lost for many of us, however, between our first Communion experience and now. At our first Communion we eagerly awaited in awe and wonder for the moment that we would receive Jesus in the Eucharist. We reverently rose and processed up the aisle to either kneel at the communion rail (for those of us old enough to remember them) or stood and received the Eucharist with hands folded respectfully. We then proceeded back to our pew and thanked God for the gift we had just received. How does this compare with our actions today? Do we walk up the aisle like we were queuing up to receive a free sample at the grocery store? Do we believe that we are truly receiving Christ's body and blood? Do we return to our pew to prayerfully thank God for this wonderful gift or do we head for the door to get out of the parking lot before our fellow worshippers?

As we celebrate new life around us during this spring and Easter season, let us remember the gift that Jesus has given each of us which brings us eternal life - the gift of the Eucharist. May we have the faith to truly believe in Christ's presence in the Eucharist and to receive Jesus with the reverence, awe, and respect we showed at our first Communion. Let us thank God for the gift of the Eucharist and may we, through its reception, be good stewards of God's love and place God first in our lives as members of Christ's body. *By Jim Lamm, St. Louis Catholic Church, Austin, TX*

OUR MINISTERS REFLECT

I can remember how hesitant I felt when first asked to help out. I remember feeling... I'm unknown in this community, you wouldn't want me to do that, I'm not strong enough in my faith, I have not been part of this community very long, people will wonder who I am.

All of my fears were answered when with God's grace I gathered enough courage to say 'yes'. The people of St. Mary's encouraged me rather than judged me. Gradually bit by bit I got to know more and more parishioners. Gradually bit by bit my faith grew and continues to grow.

I have learned that we are the Body of Christ. That as a community of Christians we need each other. That each and everyone of us has an important and vital role to play in building God's Reign.

I have learned that there is nothing more fulfilling and important in life than trying to live God's call. Nothing more important than allowing myself to experience God's love. It is this experience of God's love that helps me to share this love with others. Each time I gather the courage to say 'yes' I am rewarded with growth in faith.

RETURNING TO SPIRIT

Returning to Spirit is a healing process that is of benefit to anyone who takes part in the workshops. While it was originally developed to help people deal with the effects in their lives of the residential school experience, one does not have to had residential school experience in their family background to benefit.

The RTS process consists of three parts:

Part 1 is a 5 day workshop for **aboriginals**

Part 2 is a 5 day workshop for **non-aboriginals**

Part 3 a 5 day workshop where the two groups come together for **Reconciliation**.

So, aboriginals take Parts 1 & 3, non-aboriginals take Parts 2 & 3.

Upcoming workshops here in Prince George:

Part 1—May 18-22, 2009

Part 2—July 6-10, 2009

Part 2—Dec 7-11, 2009

Part 3—2010

For more information, or to register, contact:

Part 1 Mary-Anne Jamin-
250-964-4424 (ext
235)

Part 2 Stacy—964-4424



ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

The feast of St. Joseph the Worker was established by Pope Pius XII in 1955 to emphasize the dignity of labor as seen through the light of faith. It is celebrated on the first day of May because that day has been designated throughout the world as a day to celebrate the economic and social achievements of workers. The relationship between St. Joseph, the carpenter, and the cause of workers enjoys a rich history in the life of the church and the pontiff believed it fitting that St. Joseph, a working man who became patron of the universal Church, should be honored on May 1.

The opening prayer in the Liturgy on the feast day of St. Joseph the Worker is a stewardship prayer, proclaiming that God, the creator and ruler of the universe, has called men and women in every age to develop and use their talents for the good of others. Whether our work involves cultivating the land, laying bricks or building bridges, we are called to produce and bear fruit for others with our own hands. We do this for the sake of the Gospel, to

build up the Body of Christ. St. Joseph, the carpenter, serves as a profound model of

Christian stewardship for workers everywhere.



UNSUNG HEROINES: WOMEN FROM ROME

Greetings in the Lord! My name is Paul. You may have heard of me, you know, I wrote a few letters to the followers of the Risen Christ during the time of the Caesars. Yeah, I thought you might have heard of me, I think pretty much everyone has. And that's not the way it was supposed to be! I didn't do it alone you know. Nope, I had quite a bit of help. Somewhere along the line though, I seem to have developed a reputation as misogynist, keeping women in their place, covered heads and quiet mouths. That is not exactly accurate! But you know how it goes, you write some stuff, you leave this world and your followers take what you've written and modify it for their own situations. I've got nothing against that, it just galls me when I get stuck with the bad rap!

So, let me set the record straight. Women played a huge role in my ministry. HUGE! Did I mention huge? Without them, it wouldn't have happened. Take a look at my commendations in the letter to Rome, 16:1-16. Go ahead, take a look and count all the women's names! See, I rest my case... What do you mean, there aren't that many?? There are like at least 10! Ah yes, your historians did manage to turn my cousin Junia into a man, but still... Don't you see the rest? Ah yes, I forgot... Greek is probably not your first language. Ah, it is all clear.

Well, let me start by introducing you to Tryphena and Tryphosa! What, you thought they were guys? Nope, women for sure. Their names actually mean dainty and delicate. No way would a guy be stuck with a name like that! Anyhow, Tryphena and Tryphosa were relatives... You can tell that because their names begin the same. And they were well-bred young ladies, living up to their names of dainty and delicate. I can't remember where I met up with them, all my trips sort of blur together. Wherever it was, they had it all, servants, food, clothing, villas. You name it, it was theirs. But something happened to them. They realized that all of their wealth, their life of ease didn't mean anything. It was empty to them. And one day, they heard my preaching and it touched them to the core. They were looking for meaning in life and they found it! They eventually ended up in Rome, and boy, did they ever work hard. They rolled up their sleeves and jumped right in. Nothing was beneath them. No delicate or dainty! They worked hard for the Lord.

And they are still with you today! Well, maybe not my friends Tryphena and Tryphosa, but women cut of the same cloth. Women who jump right in and move things forward. Who aren't afraid to challenge the status quo. Women who left lives of ease and comfort to minister with "those people". I'm not going to tell you who "those people" are, because they're always changing... You know who they are. What are you doing about it?



STEWARDSHIP OF THE EARTH—GOING GREEN

It's the latest trend in everything from the food we eat to the places we live to the transportation we take to the products we use. With the recent explosion of media attention to the environment, one might think that protecting the Earth is a new idea. It's not. In fact, Creation care is at the core of our Christian tradition.

When we read the Bible, we often focus on the relationship between humans and God. Yet, the foundational stories of our faith reveal the importance of another set of relationships—the relationships between God and Creation and between humans and Creation. From the ancient Israelites to the early followers of Christ, caring for the Earth was an important means of offering thanks and praise to God. For example, in the code of law, God calls Israel to give the land a Sabbath rest every seven years, in order that it might be replenished and rejuvenated. How do we see our relationship with the earth?